

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 An image processing apparatus includes an engine controller for controlling an image forming mechanism for forming an image on a sheet based on image data, a printer controller for forming image data from printing data transferred from an external apparatus, for transmitting the image data to the engine controller, and for transmitting a command for setting an operation of the engine controller to the engine controller, and a reader controller for controlling an original-reading device for outputting image data by reading an image of an original, and for transmitting the image data output from the original-reading device to the engine controller. The reader controller is provided between 10 the printer controller and the engine controller so as to be communicatable with each of the printer controller and the engine controller, and controls the acquisition of a right to use the engine controller with the printer controller.

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